

THE  
**DISSEMINATOR**  
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**THE DISSEMINATOR**

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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Questions or comments about the activities in this issue should be directed to the contact people named (unless otherwise stated, @nshpl.library.ns.ca is the domain for all e-mail addresses in this publication). Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Sue Dirani ([sdirani](mailto:sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca)). To add a name to the mailing list, send a message to Debbie Ross ([dross](mailto:dross@nshpl.library.ns.ca)).

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**REGULAR COLUMNS:**

- [From the Editor](#)
- [Tech Talk](#)

**FEATURE ARTICLES:**

- [Library Funding Formula Review](#)
- [Closure of Cultural Affairs Library](#)
- [White Paper on Education](#)
- [Operation Bootstrap](#)
- [Business Service Centre](#)

- Palaeolithic Summer Reading Programme
- DRA-Find Demo
- Information Rights Week
- Internet Interest Intense!
- Demonstration Site At PARL
- Multi-Media Workstation
- Wolfville Community Network

## RESOURCES:

- Professional Reading
- Joblists on the Internet

## FROM THE EDITOR

For any of you that read CLA's Feliciter, you may have noticed that part of the DISSEMINATOR was reproduced in the latest issue. Please allow me to explain this. Some months ago we received a request from members of the CLA executive who are on our mailing list asking if they could include items from the DISS in the Feliciter. We, of course, said yes although many articles in the DISS are local or regional in nature and are not written for a national audience. Some of the items reproduced in the Feliciter were not of national interest and incomplete e-mail addresses were given in the articles. I apologize to anyone who may have been inconvenienced and I've discussed with them the possibility of running it by me before printing. On a lighter note, consistent with the increased post-Christmas activity at Provincial Library this issue is a big one! Enjoy. -- Sue Dirani

## TECH TALK

It is not widely known (at least here at Provincial Library), but a "print screen" can be done while using Winqvtnet by tapping Alt-F2. Thanks go to Ruth Boyle of Cumberland Regional Library for passing this on to us.

DRA MultiLIS reported on February 2 that some of our suggested changes concerning microfiche production have been implemented. A sample was sent to the regions February 13.

RECON stats: Ping Xu has been working on the regional libraries RECON project which started in December. Here are some statistics of items completed so far (as of January 31) : Cape Breton - 570; Pictou-Antigonish - 1,180; Western Counties - 1,428.

New databanks planned: As a result of the Management Audit of the Department of Education, we are now in the planning stages of adding new databanks to NcompasS for the following collections: Department of Education Library, Career Resources, Literacy Collection, and Education Media Services

(who share the building with the Provincial Library).

**Automation Meeting report:** A series of automation meetings were held on January 12 and 13 which were attended by all regional libraries. As a follow-up to these, another meeting will take place February 22 and 23 with DRA MultiLIS representatives present. They will review with the regional libraries one option for automation which involves putting some of the regional databases on the Provincial Library system. DRA MultiLIS will also be demonstrating their "Open DRANET" product.

The Provincial Library's World Wide Web home page has generated some positive feedback. Access to the home page is logged and we are pleased to have had visitors from Japan, Germany, and Sweden taking a look at us! We've also had e-mail from a talking book user in Halifax who was inquiring about how to search NcompasS for talking books. We advised her that it is as simple as entering "au=Austen, Jane and ti=talking book".

For any interested regional library, a test database is available for use on our system. This database consists of about 7,000 records and the full functionality of all modules can be made available for demonstrations or to learn more about the capability of the system. Instructions on how to log in to the test database will be sent to all regions. For information on any of the items in Tech Talk, contact Leslie Foster (lfoster@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

## **FUNDING FORMULA REVIEW**

The final meeting of the Funding Formula Review Committee is taking place on Thursday, February 23. There will be a discussion of the Committee's draft report, which is being distributed to the chief librarians of all N.S. Regional Libraries on February 17. If anyone wishes to see a copy please call 424-2457 or e-mail Debbie Ross (dross@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

## **CLOSURE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS LIBRARY**

The Cultural Affairs Library has been closed permanently as a result of the Department of Education's "Response to the Management Audit". The closure took effect January 31, 1995. The library bookdrop will stay open, for return of materials only, during the month of February and Gillian Webster will be dispersing the collection until March 31. The material from the Cultural Affairs Library is being dispersed among four Metro libraries: Halifax City Regional Library and NSCAD (taking Craft and Visual Arts materials); Killam Library of Dalhousie University (taking Performing Arts materials); and the Library of the Department of Education (taking Cultural Industries, Cultural Policy and serials). The materials transferred to the non-government libraries are expected to be ready for circulation again by Fall 1995. Funding is being made available to the recipient libraries for cataloguing and processing the collections. All public enquiries about borrowing and related details should be directed to the individual libraries at that time. It is anticipated that there will be some materials left over, both books and magazines, from the selection process outlined above. A detailed list of what remains will be posted to all Nova Scotia regional public libraries for selection in late March.

## **WHITE PAPER ON EDUCATION**

The Honourable John MacEachern, Minister of the Department of Education and Culture, has just released the eagerly awaited White Paper entitled "Educational Horizons". The paper presents the government's framework for the renewal of Nova Scotia's public education structure which will enable partners to participate more fully in a more effective, adaptable system. The Minister is planning a series of public meetings to be held around the province. Here is a brief outline of the meeting dates (all meetings will be held from 7-9 PM): Antigonish - March 2; North Sydney - March 6; Halifax - March 8; Truro - March 9; Bridgewater - March 21; New Minas - March 23; Yarmouth - March 28; Springhill - March 30. Check your local newspapers for further details. "Educational Horizons" is available for loan from the Provincial Library.

## **OPERATION BOOTSTRAP**

Operation Bootstrap is a grant program which addresses the needs of rural Nova Scotians for easy access to interactive learning and training initiatives in the area of business information. The main objective is to facilitate access to interactive learning for entrepreneurs, management, and employees so that their business may continue or improve their viability and competitiveness. Marion Pape and Andrea John met recently with the Operation Bootstrap Committee and discussed the possibility of a province-wide application. It was agreed that we would prepare an application covering all interested N.S. regional libraries, phasing-in over several years. The first installations (presuming that we will get the money) would be in regions which have already submitted applications - and presumably are the most ready and interested. There is also a very real need for information on exactly what interactive learning materials are and where to buy them. To find this information, the federal government has hired Chris Merrick for a few weeks to find out what is available for sale. His research will serve as an excellent selection tool for applicants to the grant program. He can be reached at 424-2453 or by e-mail at [cmerrick@nshpl.library.ns.ca](mailto:cmerrick@nshpl.library.ns.ca). It was encouraging to see the Committee's recognition that libraries are ideal delivery sites for this kind of learning. Please contact Andrea John for more information ([ajohn@nshpl.library.ns.ca](mailto:ajohn@nshpl.library.ns.ca)).

## **BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE**

The Canada/Nova Scotia Business Service Centre, based in Halifax, provides business information, assistance and advice to business people and entrepreneurs throughout Nova Scotia. The Provincial Library has organized a morning of information sharing between the BSC and the regional public libraries in the province. One reference staff member from each regional library has been invited to attend this exchange which will assist the libraries in understanding the role of the BSC (and vice versa!) and help provide ideas for cooperation between the two organizations. The "Discovery Morning" is taking place March 3, 1995 at the Business Service Centre.

## **PALAEOLITHIC SUMMER READING PROGRAMME (DINO-MIGHT!)**

As part of the Provincial Library's service to the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries in the area of children

and young adults, work has begun on this year's Summer Reading Programme with "Be A Readasaurus / Soyez Lectursaur" as the theme. This year, for the first time, the artwork for the posters, t-shirts, and sweatshirts will be bilingual instead of having two separate versions. Once all orders are in from the regional libraries we will begin the tendering process for the production of the publicity items. For further information contact Sue Dirani (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca)

## **DRA-FIND DEMO**

DRA-Find will be the subject of a demo on February 23 when MultiLIS representatives John Richardson and Daniel Boivin visit the Provincial Library (see TECH TALK above). The regional libraries are invited to come to the morning demo at 10:00 AM, and anyone else who is interested to the afternoon session at 1:00 PM. DRA-Find lets you search other libraries' databases, as well as citation indexes and Library of Congress databases, using its unique search engine. We will also have a demo of the databases which are accessed through Open DRANET. Please contact Andrea John (ajohn@nshpl.library.ns.ca) for more information.

## **INFORMATION RIGHTS WEEK**

A small working group has been meeting to plan and coordinate Nova Scotia activities for Information Rights Week, April 3 - 10, 1995. As part of the events planned there will be an official launch event for the Chebucto FreeNet, a public program featuring speaker Stan Skrzyszewski of the Coalition for Public Information, and staff training sessions on what information rights are and why we should be concerned about them. Provincial Library will be distributing posters, brochures and information kits to the N.S. library and information community. Some exciting activities are being planned and we hope you will take advantage of them or plan activities of your own such as book displays, staff discussions, programs, letters to the editor, etc.

## **INTERNET INTEREST INTENSE!**

On Tuesday February 7, Cumberland Regional Library hosted a meeting of people interested in Internet. The turnout was much greater than expected with over 100 people attending ranging from experienced users to others who wanted to find out what this Internet was all about. The group was addressed by Doug Shatford, a member of the Library Board, who also presented a video about freenets. Due to the tremendous response, another meeting is being planned at the Springhill High School which is currently participating in the Schoolnet initiative (Community Internet Access) and has 15 computers available for a demonstration. Leslie Foster from the Provincial Library attended and will be setting up a listserv to aid the participants. Stay tuned...

## **DEMONSTRATION SITE AT PARL**

A demonstration site is being developed at the New Glasgow Library of the Pictou- Antigonish Regional Library. The demonstration project is designed to provide the Dept. of Education with tested procedures

and policies which can be used for launching other public access sites across the province. Public access to the Internet and NcompasS will be monitored and evaluated to provide information on changing usage patterns, public needs for services such as training and other implications on library programs. The New Glasgow Library currently has computer access for patrons to use word processing, etc. Through this project it is expected that library partnerships will be expanded with other educational, business and community agencies. Carole Compton-Smith from the Provincial Library is working with PARL Chief Librarian Ann Ripley and her staff to design and implement the program. An initial meeting was held at the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library on February 14 to begin discussing the terms of reference for the project. If you have any suggestions that may assist with this project please contact Carole (ccompton@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

## **MULTI-MEDIA WORKSTATION**

A multi-media workstation has been installed at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library so that a variety of CD-ROM products can be previewed. This workstation will enable both the sound and the video clips of the products to be heard and viewed. The CD-ROM products include Grolier's Multimedia Encyclopedia, 20th Century Video Almanac - providing news-style video clips, and a selection of general reference works. Additionally, the workstation can be used to hear all those music or sound clips when delving into the World Wide Web on the Internet.

## **WOLFVILLE COMMUNITY NETWORK**

Sharon Wendt at the Wolfville Library of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library has been working hard to encourage her local community to develop a computer network for Wolfville, Kentville and the surrounding area. She has spearheaded several meetings and on February 11 a name was chosen for this fledgling network, Glooscap On-line, and a Board was appointed. For more information, contact Sharon Wendt (wendt@fox.nstn.ns.ca).

## **PROFESSIONAL READING**

Here are two of the latest additions to our Professional Collection:

1) Libraries and the Internet/NREN: Perspectives, Issues and Challenges. Edited by Charles R. McClure. Westport: Mecklermedia, c1994. (Prof 021 .650973 Lib) - This book deals with the effects of the evolving Internet/NREN (National Research and Education Network) on libraries and explores issues and topics relating to the role of libraries in the Internet/NREN. The central theme is that libraries should be shaping networking developments and the environment in which they will deliver networked services and products rather than merely responding to them. This is the most recent addition to a number of works in our Professional Collection by Charles McClure.

2) St. Clair, Guy. Customer Service in the Information Environment. New Jersey: Bowker-Saur, c1993. (Prof 338 .470255 St.C) - St. Clair asserts that, since information is a consumer-driven commodity,

librarians and information service managers who have implemented a strong customer service program into their operations are more successful. This book outlines the reasons for developing and implementing a formal customer service program and identifies specific techniques for practitioners who wish to establish such programs.

## **JOBLISTS ON THE INTERNET**

One of the questions most often asked regarding the Internet (in today's depressed economy) concerns finding job opportunities. In response, one librarian in the U.S. has developed a job hunting guide available on the WWW. The first guide of it's kind to address job hunting on the Internet, this list includes resources for job listings and other related information that can be accessed at no cost to the user. Margaret Riley, librarian at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute is the author of the guide and her work has been cited in several magazines, journals, and forthcoming books. If you have a WWW browser the URL is <http://www.wpi.edu/~mfriley/jobguide.html>. For those who prefer the simpler e-mail method of job hunting, try JobSAT. JobSAT is a jobs listing service offering free access by Internet e-mail. There are typically more than 5000 current openings from all across Canada. Just send an e-mail message saying "HELP" to [jobsat@hookup.net](mailto:jobsat@hookup.net). The system will reply with detailed instructions.

